

## Message Text

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16

ORIGIN USIA-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CU-04 PRS-01 PA-04 CPR-02

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 COME-00 SS-20 NSC-10

L-03 EB-11 /093 R

DRAFTED BY USIA/INA:ALGILBERT/MW

APPROVED BY NEA - MR. SOBER

USIA/INA:WJMILLER (DRAFT)

USIA/INA:CECOURTNEY (DRAFT)

USIA/IGC:FTRIBBE (DRAFT

NEA/PAB:ASCHIFFERDECKER

NEA/PAB:PDCONSTABLE

----- 127414

R 292349Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 019322

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF, US

SUBJECT: GOA REGULATIONS ON EMBASSY INFORMATION AND  
CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

REF: KABUL 488

1. WE APPRECIATE DIFFICULTIES PRESENTED BY NEW CENSORSHIP  
REGULATIONS, BUT RECOGNIZE, AS DOES EMBASSY, THAT GOA  
APPEARS TO BE ACTING WITHIN ACCEPTABLE RANGE OF ITS  
SOVEREIGN AUTHORITY. WHILE GOA RESTRICTIONS AS OUTLINED  
REFTEL APPEAR ON SURFACE AS ONEROUS, WE WOULD HOPE THAT  
PROCEDURAL OBSTACLES CAN BE RESOLVED AS NOT TO SERIOUSLY  
INHIBIT USIS PROGRAMMING. SIMILAR CONTROLS ARE IN EFFECT  
IN SOME OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES, ALTHOUGH RIGOR OF APPLI-  
CATION VARIES CONSIDERABLY. EVEN IN BURMA, WHOSE  
REGULATIONS TIGHTER AND STRICTLY APPLIED, USIS AND GOVT  
OFFICIALS HAVE ARRIVED AT WORKABLE INFORMAL PROCEDURES FOR  
CLEARANCE.

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2. POST SHOULD ATTEMPT CONFORM NEW GOA REGS, ON ASSUMPTION NO AGENCY OR POST PRODUCT/PROGRAM WILL OFFEND HOST GOVT OR CONTRAVENE THIRD COUNTRY "RULE". WHENEVER, IN SUCH SITUATION, HOST GOVTS DISAPPROVE CERTAIN ACTIVITY, POST SHOULD ALWAYS REQUEST SPECIFICS: WHICH PHOTO IN EXHIBIT? WHICH ARTICLE AND WHICH PART OF ARTICLE IN PUBLICATION? WHICH SCENE AND LINES IN PLAY? THIS APPROACH HAS SALUTARY EFFECT OF FOCUSING CENSORS ON INTENT THEIR OWN REGS, AND

NOT ACCEPTING BLANKET CONDEMNATION.

3. ONE GREY AREA IS WHERE HOST GOVT REGS MAY INFRINGE ON DIPLOMATIC STATUS AND/OR EXTRATERRITORIAL RIGHTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, AMERICAN CENTER IS IN SOMEWHAT EXPOSED POSITION, SINCE WE ARE ONLY MISSION PERMITTED SUCH FACILITY AND DO NOT WISH JEOPARDIZE ITS EXISTENCE. NONE-THELESS, CENTER IS USG PREMISES, AND POST SHOULD AVOID SITUATION WHERE GOA ASSUMES RIGHT APPROVE/DISAPPROVE CENTER ACTIVITIES. YOUR MODUS OPERANDI OF PERMITTING GOA "PREVIEW" EXHIBITS AND WINDOW DISPLAYS AT CENTER SATISFACTORY. ALSO, NO OBJECTION TO SUBMITTING PLAY SCRIPTS, VTRS, OR FILMS, WHICH WILL BE SHOWN TO AFGHAN AUDIENCES AT CENTER OR ELSEWHERE, FOR REGULAR CENSORSHIP PROCEDURES. ASSUME THAT GOA REGS DO NOT ATTEMPT CONTROL ELT ACTIVITIES OR LIBRARY OPERATION.

4. WE AGREE ON NEED WORK OUT PASSIVE APPROVAL PROCEDURES WITH GOA - "APPROVAL ASSUMED UNLESS DISAPPROVAL RECEIVED WITHIN CERTAIN TIME". HOPEFULLY, AS GOA BEGINS APPLICATION REGS, THEY WILL REALIZE USEFULNESS OF EXPEDITING THROUGH INFORMAL CHANNELS. PROBLEM OF ONE-PUBLICATION-PERMISSION RULE DIFFICULT RESOLVE IF GOA FIRM ON INTERPRETATION REGS AS OUTLINED REFTTEL. SHOULD STRESS, HOWEVER, THAT COMMERCIAL NEWSLETTER IS NOT A NEWS BULLETIN BUT INSTEAD IS NON-POLITICAL RPT NON-POLITICAL PUBLICATION WHICH CARRIES INFORMATION OF ECONOMIC BENEFIT TO GOA AND AFGHAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY. ALTERNATIVE IS TO PUBLISH USIS NEWSBULLETIN (BACKGROUND AMERICA) AND COMMERCIAL NEWSLETTER JOINTLY OR IN SEQUENCE (THREE ISSUES, ONE ISSUE). ASSUME OTHER AGENCY PUBLICATIONS - HORIZONS

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USA, MARZHAYE NOW, DIALOGUE, IMPACT - ALL ACCEPTABLE SINCE PRINTED OUTSIDE AFGHANISTAN.

5. RE "KABUL AMERICAN", BELIEVE YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO SEPARATE PROBLEM OF ITS PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION FROM INFO-CULTURAL ACTIVITIES. IF GOA INSISTS, EMBASSY MAY HAVE TO CONSIDER REDUCING ITS DISTRIBUTION SOMEWHAT.

6. COURTNEY KABUL VISIT FEBRUARY 11 MIGHT PROVIDE  
OCCASION FOR FOLLOWUP CALL FARHANG/RAFIQUE IF YOU BELIEVE  
USEFUL.

7. USIA/INA CONCURS ABOVE. KISSINGER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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